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Volume 66, Number 1, Spring 2016

Washington County Historical Society

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Submissions

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Membership

Society membership is invited to those interested in preservation of Washington County history. Annual dues for categories of members are: Senior, Student, Public Library, $15; General, $25; Trail Blazer, $50; Explorer $100; Wagon Master, $250; Pioneer, $500; Statesman, $1,000; Empire Builder, $5,000.

Members are mailed *Flashback* each quarter. Available past issues are $6 each, postpaid. Add $1 postage for issues printed in 1951 through February 1972. Web site: washcohistoricalsociety.org or headquartershouse.org.

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FLASHBACK

Journal of the Washington County Historical Society
Preserving Our Past for Future Generations

Volume 66 Spring 2016 Number 1

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Photo by Hoyt Purvis

On the Cover: Bill Bowden, a reporter for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, takes a phone call from Mayor Sunny Hudson, who was standing nearby but outside the view of the camera. The Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth was damaged by an accident in 2014 damaged it. The Prairie Grove Telephone Co. repaired the booth and reinstalled it, which led the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to seek its addition to the National Register of Historic Places. Read the nomination starting on Page 32.

The Village of Winslow in the 1880s: Helen Dunlap Memorial School

Editor's Note: This article submitted by Cheri Coley and Barbara Lewis is the winner of the 2015 Lessie Stringfellow Reed Prize for writing about the history of significant places, people or events in Washington County.

By Cheri Coley and Barbara Lewis,
Marion Chapter,
National Society Daughters of American Revolution

With the coming of the railroad and the building of the railroad tunnel in the 1880's, Winslow, Arkansas became a supply center of railroad workers. Prior to this time, the only mode of transportation was a stagecoach that ran from Joplin, Missouri through the Boston Mountains to Paris, Arkansas. When the railroad was completed, it was easier to visit the area from locations such as Fort Smith and Fayetteville. A resort atmosphere resulted. The old Woollum stage stop was purchased by the Williams family and remolded into the Summit Hotel that could board around 80 guests. Boston Heights, Sky Vue and many more hotels were built to accommodate the influx of summer visitors. Many people wanted to escape the heat of the valley and the lowland summer fevers during this time period. Winslow would swell from a population of 350 to several thousand during the summer months.[1]

The Beginnings of Helen Dunlap Memorial School

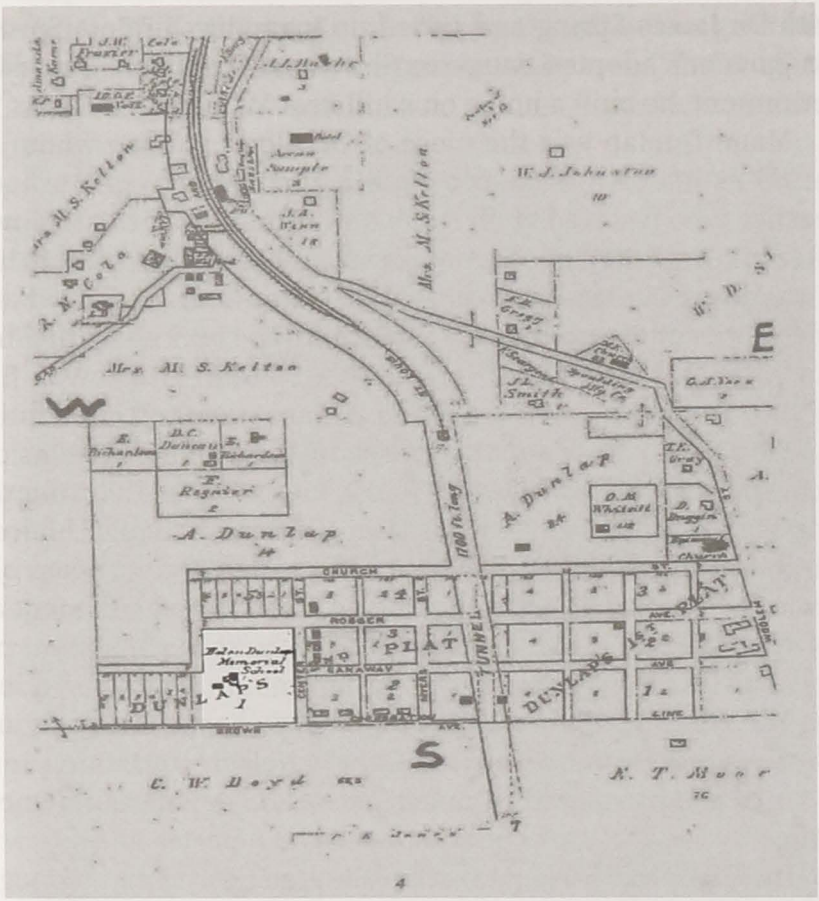
Boston Heights was the name of the twelve-room house built by Dr. Albert and Virginia C. Dunlap when the moved to Winslow,

Arkansas from Fort Smith, Arkansas in July 1887. They built this home in an area they hoped was better for Mrs. Dunlap's health and to retire in. It was built large enough to accommodate visitors in the summer months. The building site was on the highest point in town, 2000 feet above sea level, offering beautiful views in every direction. Many friends came to visit and take advantage of the view and the refreshing breezes during the summer months. At one time, many large oak trees surround the home. Years later, one of the headmasters had the trees removed because he thought the insects were too loud and disturbed his sleep.

In June, 1904, the Boston Heights home and ten acres were sold to the Episcopal Church for a school and a church. The Helen Dunlap Memorial School was founded by the Dunlaps after the death of their 8½ year old adopted granddaughter, Helen Dunlap. The Dunlap's remained at Boston Heights as house parents and teachers until the Episcopal Church sent a rector and headmasters for the school. In the beginning the school was open to boys and girls alike. The school soon became a boarding school for girls only. The Dunlaps moved into a smaller home they built after the school was established. This school was a mission of the Episcopal Church, the only one in the state of Arkansas. Funding was also provided by the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Dunlap family along with many friends.[2]

The People Who Made the School a Reality

Virginia Spring Dunlap was the wife of Dr. Albert Dunlap, who she married at the age of 28. She worked as a piano teacher for several years supporting herself after her "adopted" mother died. Her real mother died when she was three weeks old and her father fostered her out to his brother, Col. James P. Spring and his wife Pocahantas. They raised Virginia as their own daughter along with their other children. She was raised Confederate and Episcopalian with a strong sense of family. Virginia later agreed to raise her husband's nieces and nephew (Maud and J.P.) as her own children. She had lots of experience as a foster



An early map of Winslow shows the location of the Helen Dunlap Memorial School in the Dunlap addition, not to far west of the Winslow railroad tunnel.

child and who was adopted by relatives. "Virginia was eligible, through both her father and her mother to have membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution."[3]

Dr. Albert Dunlap studied medicine under Dr. Pollard in Washington County, Arkansas. He graduated in 1851 from the School of Medicine, Transylvania University of Lexington, KY. He served as a Confederate surgeon during the Civil War. Afterwards

he practiced medicine in the Fort Smith area. He was a partner with Dr. James Spring and ended up marrying Virginia Spring, his partner's adopted daughter. She was 17 years his junior. On retirement, he built a home on a hill near Winslow, Arkansas.[4]

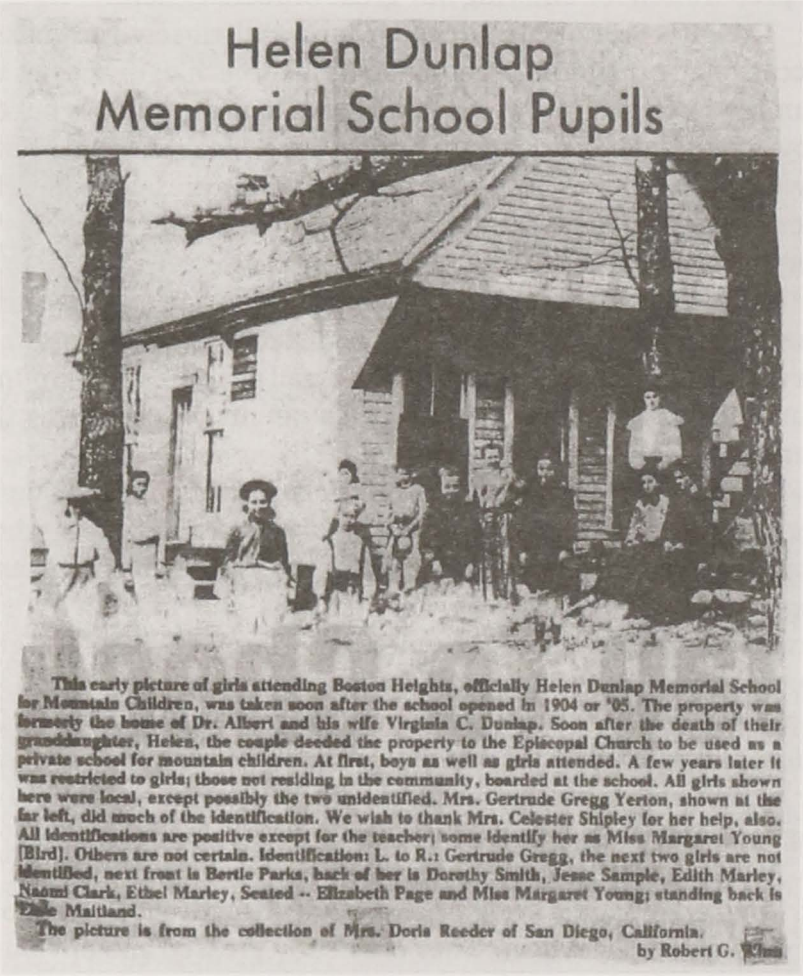
Maud Dunlap was the niece of Dr. Albert Dunlap whom he raised as his own daughter. Maud's real father was a schoolteacher who fostered all five of his children to various relatives after his first wife's death. Maud and her brother, J.P. went to live with Albert Dunlap, their uncle. Her father later remarried and had more children but never reclaimed his children by the first marriage. Maud and her brother, J.P. arrived in Winslow in July of 1887 on a train from Fort Smith, Arkansas with their adoptive mother, Virginia. Dr. Albert Dunlap who had been in Winslow building a new home for his family, met them at the train depot. Maud married Hallam Pearce in 1894 and had two children, Virginia and Helen. Virginia died before she was two years old. Hallam deserted his family and Maud filed for an annulment after four years without support from him. In her annulment papers, she states that she had to let her "adopted parents" adopt her daughter Helen as she was unable to support herself and her daughter. Maud remarried Gilbert Nelson Duncan on June 1, 1908, and prospered as a pharmacist and newspaper owner/editor.[5]

Dr. Albert and Virginia Dunlap adopted Helen Pearce, daughter of Maud Dunlap Pearce. They changed her last name to Dunlap and treated her like their granddaughter. She died before she was nine years of age. They named a school in her honor and memory.[6]

Life at Helen Dunlap Memorial School for Girls

The school accepted day students but mostly functioned as a boarding school. Tuition was $1.00 per month for day students. Most were unable to support themselves and required scholarships. Scholarship support was $50 per boarding student for the entire year. There was a large waiting list in 1915 and possibly other years also. Once a month a mission's full barrel arrived

at the Church from other Episcopal congregations donations for the school. The things not needed by the school or girls were sold or distributed among the people in the area. The Daughters


Helen Dunlap
Memorial School Pupils
This early picture of girls attending Boston Heights, officially Helen Dunlap Memorial School for Mountain Children, was taken soon after the school opened in 1904 or '05. The property was formerly the home of Dr. Albert and his wife Virginia C. Dunlap. Soon after the death of their granddaughter, Helen, the couple deeded the property to the Episcopal Church to be used as a private school for mountain children. At first, boys as well as girls attended. A few years later it was restricted to girls; those not residing in the community, boarded at the school. All girls shown here were local, except possibly the two unidentified. Mrs. Gertrude Gregg Yerton, shown at the far left, did much of the identification. We wish to thank Mrs. Celester Shipley for her help, also. All identifications are positive except for the teacher; some identify her as Miss Margaret Young [Bird]. Others are not certain. Identification: L. to R.: Gertrude Gregg, the next two girls are not identified, next front is Bertie Parks, back of her is Dorothy Smith, Jesse Sample, Edith Marley, Naomi Clark, Ethel Marley, Seated -- Elizabeth Page and Miss Margaret Young; standing back is Dale Maitland.
The picture is from the collection of Mrs. Doris Reeder of San Diego, California.
by Robert G.

A news clipping shows students in front of the Helen Dunlap Memorial School, also known as the Boston Heights school, soon after the house was donated to the Episcopal Church for use as a school and church in 1904. Initially, the Episcopals taught both boys and girls, but the school was converted to a boarding school for girls only.

of the American Revolution also sent many boxes of supplies, linens and clothing to the school.[7]

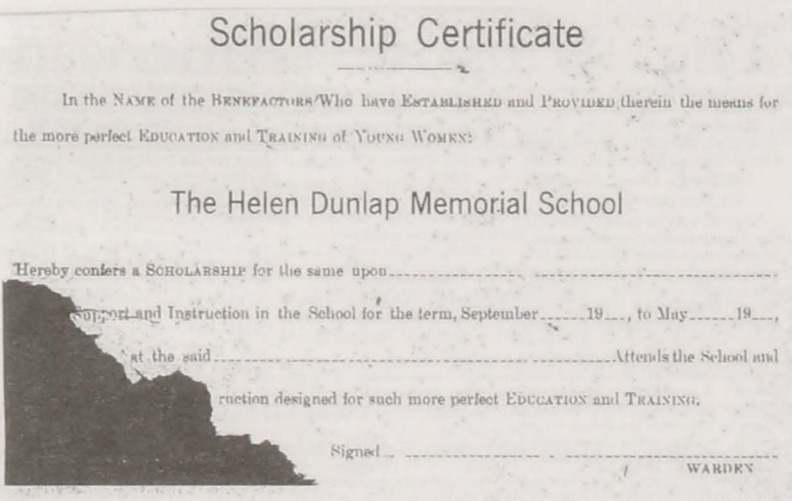
The 1908 *Mirror* newspaper states: "The Rev. and W.A. Nichols of the Helen Dunlap Memorial gives special training courses in preparation for entering our great University here."[8]

The girls were strictly chaperoned and closely supervised. Occasionally they attended outside functions like dances at the Summit Hotel. The girls were allowed to dance with boys but the boys could not escort the girls anywhere. The girls were heavily chaperoned and marched two by two to these events. This close supervision also existed during afternoon strolls. Church service attendance was required on Sundays.

As enrollment grew, a two-story wing of rooms was added to the north side of the house. This occurred during the tenure of Rev. Thomas Mabley. He also built a small chapel on the grounds during this time. There were 20-40 students yearly during this period.

An excerpt from a report by the State Chairman of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1925 states:" The school stands on an eminence out of sight of the village and commanding a magnificent view of wooded hills and narrow valleys, drenched in sunshine this winter day. There are about 25 girls in the school now. Fifty could be accommodated, but funds are lacking to care for so many. The youngest girl is 12, the oldest 20. a few of the girls pay their own way; many are supported wholly or in part by contributions. All the housework, including washing is done by the girls."

"We found the girls gathered in the study hall reading or writing letters and a sweeter and more attractive looking group of girls we have not seen. They are neatly dressed and obviously been trained in habits of courtesy. The dormitories are two large, airy rooms heated by a hot air furnace.. the rooms are bare, but exquisitely clean. There are two teachers in addition to Dr. and Mrs. Atmore. Besides the academic work the girls are given a thorough and practical training in housekeeping...There is also a business course for those interested."



Scholarship Certificate

In the NAME of the BENEFACTORS Who have ESTABLISHED and PROVIDED therein the means for the more perfect EDUCATION and TRAINING of YOUNG WOMEN:

The Helen Dunlap Memorial School

Hereby confers a SCHOLARSHIP for the same upon _____

Support and Instruction in the School for the term, September _____ 19___, to May _____ 19___,

at the said _____ Attends the School and

ruction designed for such more perfect EDUCATION and TRAINING.

Signed _____

WARDEN

COURTESY OF ARTISTS POINT GIFT SHOP

A blank scholarship certificate gives a sense of the educational opportunities and training that the Helen Dunlap Memorial School could provide to young women.

"The feature of the school which perhaps interested us most was the rug making. A loom was purchased in New York for $50 a year ago and since then, weaving has been a regular part of the training."[9]

"In the wintertime, we used to get sleds and ladders to ride down the hill to the gate on ice or snow." Robert Winn added, "When the snow lasted long enough to be packed the school girls were permitted under close supervision to come out and join the local boys who took sleds to the hill and all enjoyed delightful sledding on the steep slope within the school compounds."[10]

The 1916 curriculum taught the following courses: Language, Music, Mathematics, History, Domestic Science and Nursing. In 1917 First Aid and Hygiene were added.[11]

Francis Shill Land-Baum attended the school for 4 years, 1916-1920. In 1990, she wrote her memories in a letter to Robert Winn. "I had a scholarship from the D.A.R. at Helena, Arkansas. The academic course was heavy-several languages. I had

The Winslow American

VOL. XIX. FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1933. NO. 13.

Winslow, Ark. "The Top of the Ozarks" Elevation 2000 ft.

Helen Dunlap Memorial School Buildings Being Prepered for Summer Conference

That all may be in readiness for the Young Peoples' summer conference at the Helen Dunlap Memorial school, Rev. S. H. Rainey, of Fayetteville, has been at the school every day this week with a force of assistants renovating water and sewer systems and the lighting plant, repairing the roof and making such other repairs as finances permit. The Rev. Mr. Rainey is also having preliminary cleaning done, so to lighten the duties of the young women, the supervisors, who will arrive early next week.

A truck load every day—of berries, beans, etc., to city markets is reported by Cole-Land Mercantile Co.

Geo. W. Dodd, of Fort Smith, has purchased a site from P. E. McClendon, immediately south of the McClendon home, and will erect a summer cottage.

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Palmer, of San Angelo, Tex., are at the Palmer summer home, Silver Maples, for the summer. They have as their guests Mr. Palmer's uncle, Prof. Frank C. McClelland, of Chicago; and the three older children of Mr. and Mrs. Will Palmer of Dallas. Mrs. L. A. Palmer, who, two weeks ago, left her home in Washington, D. C. for Chicago, will not come to "Silver Maples" this summer, but will spend the summer with her sister, Miss Mary McClelland, at the latter's home in Chicago.

Mt. Lodge Opens About July 1

Geo. W. Jalonick of Dallas, president of Mountain Lodge, is at the Lodge to complete arrangements for the opening about July 1

"Arkansas Ozarks in Festive Robes for Vacationists"

The following complimentary

Continued on page two

Summit Opened Yesterday

The Summit opened yesterday for the season. Mrs. Williams announces that she will entertain both house guests and table guests.

L. Weiss, of Galveston, arrived at the Summit last night.

Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Land Announce Marriage of Their Second Daughter

Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Land announce the marriage of their daughter, Blonnie Rose, to Mr. Wayne A. Henbest, of Fayetteville, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Henbest, on Tuesday, June the twentieth, at Fayetteville.

The following paragraphs are from the Fayetteville Daily Democrat's account of the wedding:

"The wedding took place this (Tuesday) morning at 8 o'clock in the women's parlor in Wesley hall, with Rev. Warren Johnston officiating. The ring ceremony was used. Attendants were Mrs. Ernest Standley, sister of the bride, and Orrin Henbest, brother of the groom. Preceding the ceremony Mrs. Warren Johnston and Miss Vera Whelan played Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" and during the ceremony they played "I Love You Truly." An improvised altar of summer flowers and vines at the fireplace formed the setting for the ceremony.

"Mr. and Mrs. Henbest are former students in the University of Arkansas and both are active members of Wesley Players. Mr. Henbest is connected with the archeology work of the zoology department of the university.

"The young couple left immediately after the ceremony for a short trip and will return the first of the week for a short visit with relatives here.

"The bride wore a blue and white two-piece crepe with blue and white accessories. Her corsage was sweet peas and rose buds. The attendants both wore linen suits."

Skyvue Tourist Lodge

Winslow, Ark.

A Log Cabin Tourist Lodge

Highway 71, 3 miles so. of Winslow

Meals — Cold Drinks

Swimming Parties, Luncheon Parties

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Jones, Jr.,

Owners

MOUNTAIN INDUSTRIES—Baskets, rugs, quilts, old chairs and other antiques handled on commission—Mrs. Marie Russell, Summit Coffee Shop. advt.

Winslow's Newest Store

I take this means to inform you that I am now stocking a new, complete line of Hardware, Furniture and Harness, and will be very, very glad to have you call and look over the stock. I shall carry only a small stock on hand, but I have arrangements made whereby I can furnish you with anything you might be in the market for in my line on very short notice.

Whether you buy or not, I will be happy to have you call and see my stock, located here in the Bank building.

Yours for better times, and with the hope that I can help to make Winslow one of the the best trading points in Washington County.

Your Friend,
W. V. LAND

Advertisement

A 1933 edition of The Winslow American mentions the hard work being done to prepare the Helen Dunlap Memorial School for the Young Peoples' summer conference. The paper mentions renovation of the water and sewer system as well as work on lighting system and repairs to the roof.

four years of Latin-not so much French, German and Spanish. We were taught sewing, cooking and running a home-and lots of Bible teaching." Her sister attended with a scholarship from a lady in New York, New York. She said they played lots of basketball and had a Maypole each year that was enjoyed by all the community.

Summer School

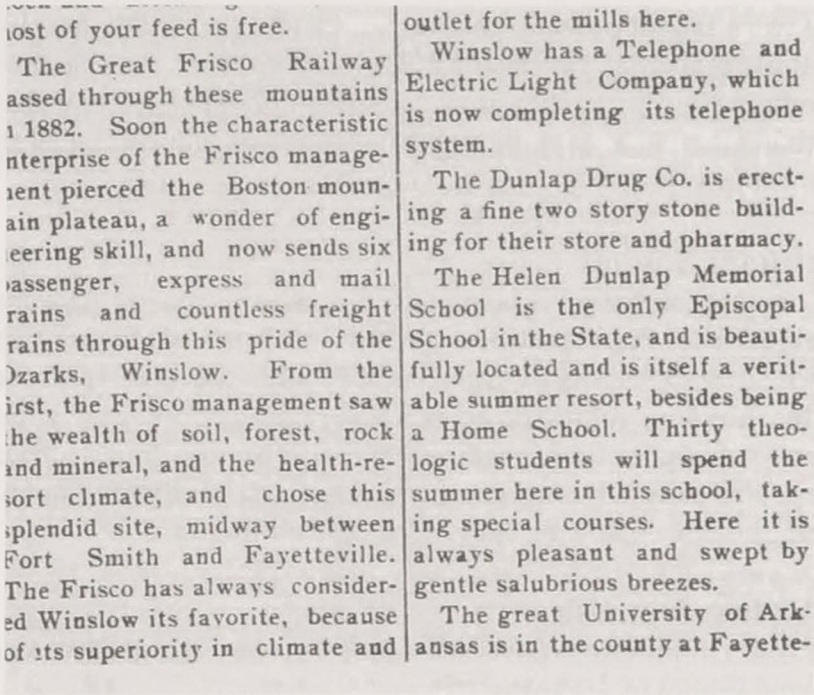
A summer school was held for a number of years. This constituted a teachers' institute during which the educators from the nearby University of Arkansas at Fayetteville offered courses in teacher education. The school also offered courses for young men studying for the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. There were also summer camps and training classes for young people from the Episcopal churches across the nation.

DAR Involvement

DAR committee reports state that this was the only DAR supported school in Arkansas.

"Except for the Church (Episcopal), the National Order of Daughters of the American Revolution has been throughout the school's most steadfast, generous friend and supporter."[12]

In 1914, DAR was in the process of building citizenship with patriotic education programs. They were supporting schools in southern Appalachia and the Ozarks. "These girls are pure Americans.. of good Revolutionary ancestry.. but the lack of education and opportunity has naturally resulted in pitiable ignorance."[13] There were 38 girls enrolled at the Helen Dunlap Memorial School, along with 6-day students at this time. This year The DAR support equaled $345 in monetary gifts and two chapters sent 3 boxes of clothes. In 1915, special gifts to the school equaled $599 plus an American flag, $730 was donated in gifts in 1916 along with lots of boxes of household items, linens, books and clothes from DAR members.[14] A report was given at the 7th Annual Conference in Arkadelphia, Arkansas from the Committee



ıost of your feed is free.

The Great Frisco Railway assed through these mountains ı 1882. Soon the characteristic nterprise of the Frisco manage- ıent pierced the Boston moun- ain plateau, a wonder of engi- eering skill, and now sends six passenger, express and mail rains and countless freight rains through this pride of the Ozarks, Winslow. From the irst, the Frisco management saw he wealth of soil, forest, rock ınd mineral, and the health-re- sort climate, and chose this splendid site, midway between Fort Smith and Fayetteville. The Frisco has always consider- ed Winslow its favorite, because of its superiority in climate and outlet for the mills here.

Winslow has a Telephone and Electric Light Company, which is now completing its telephone system.

The Dunlap Drug Co. is erecting a fine two story stone building for their store and pharmacy.

The Helen Dunlap Memorial School is the only Episcopal School in the State, and is beautifully located and is itself a veritable summer resort, besides being a Home School. Thirty theologic students will spend the summer here in this school, taking special courses. Here it is always pleasant and swept by gentle salubrious breezes.

The great University of Arkansas is in the county at Fayette-

An undated excerpt from a story about Washington County included information about the Helen Dunlap Memorial School, its location in the summer resort of Winslow and the theological instruction being received by 30 students.

on Mountain Schools by Mrs. A.C. Hamilton (Katherine Downs) State Chairman on the Helen Dunlap School in Winslow, states that only 25 girls were boarded but they could accommodate 50 if the funding was available. Some girls pay their own way but most are on scholarship. Each girl is required to bring her own bedding, a fork, spoon and knife, cup and saucer but most are too poor to bring these items. The girls do all the housecleaning as a teaching tool, not in order to save money. A business course is also available upon request.[15]

The End

"Winslow and the surrounding community lose a valuable asset-and the editor of this newspaper-as an individual suffers a grievous personal loss-in the closing of the Helen Dunlap Memorial School for Mountain Girls-be the closing temporary or permanent, the loss is permanent, the loss is serious and far-reaching in its consequences."[16]

"Since the last issue of the American, what had been anxious uncertainty for several weeks has become stark certainty? Failure of the school to open at the usual time last fall, or subsequently, caused anxiety in its still hopeful friends, but developments of the past week appear to remove uncertainly and to afford sufficient evidence that the school is closed for a considerable time to say the least."[17]

"Last Saturday morning the editor of this newspaper stood on the depot platform and witnessed the loading onto the train of a shipment of boxes said to contain blankets, linens, etc. the best of all equipment of this character that had been in the school."[18]

> "The supplies were being shipped to Christ Hospital, Topeka, Kansas, another institution supported by the Episcopal Church, shipment being made, said the Director's of the school under instructions from the chairman of the church's national headquarters in New York City."[19]

In the July 10, 1936 issue of the *Winslow American*, there is an article announcing a Homecoming for the Helen Dunlap Memorial School for Girls. It states: "If you, the reader of this announcement, are one of the H. D. M. School Girls, no matter what year or years you were here, won't you please write any member of either committee.....In years gone, there have been boy students, regular day pupils; and in summer school, young theological students and University men. These and members of their families are especially invited for Sunday Aug. 9."

Timeline

1887 – Dr. Albert & Virginia C. Dunlap move to Winslow, Arkansas from Fort Smith Arkansas.
1904 – Helen Dunlap Memorial School was established.
1910 – Dr. Albert Dunlap dies
1913 – Rev. Thomas Mabley was named headmaster.
1914 – NSDAR sends monetary gifts totaling $345 plus 2 chapters send 3 boxes of clothing
1915 – Special gifts totaling $599.00 plus an American Flag are sent to Helen Dunlap School by a New York C.A.R. Society
1916 – $730.00 in gifts is sent this year, including books, clothing and household linens.
1928 – NSDAR Continental Congress lists the Helen Dunlap School for Girls as one of 16 schools endorsed by NSDAR
Spring 1933 – Helen Dunlap Memorial School has closed.
1933 – Continental Congress resolution removed the school from the list of approved school as it had closed.
1936 – Virginia C. Dunlap dies.

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Appendix H, Committee on Patriotic Education DAR, 1916, p 1028-1032

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Call for Submissions: Prize for Writing Articles on History of Washington County

The Washington County Historical Society announces the ninth annual competition for the Walter J. Lemke Prize and the Lessie Stringfellow Reid Prize with a call for articles.

Topics can be on any phase of Washington County's history or archeology, deal with an individual or institution connected with the county, and can address any time period. The competition is open to professional and amateur historians alike.

A $250 prize is offered in each of two categories: the Walter J. Lemke Prize for best article about Washington County history with preference given for subjects outside of Fayetteville; and the Lessie Stringfellow Read Prize, with preference given for best article about Fayetteville. Winners will be recognized at the society's annual meeting each October.

Manuscripts will be judged on their contribution to the expansion of the county's history; the originality of the subject; and, the use of primary and secondary sources. The manuscripts must be original material, and must not have been previously published; no more than 40 pages, typed, preferably with endnotes, which do not count toward the 40-page limit. The title page should contain the heading "WCHS PRIZE," the full title of the manuscript, the author's name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

Entries become the property of the Washington County Historical Society and will not be returned to the author. All submissions will be considered for publication in *Flashback*. The historical society reserves the right to award one or no prizes.

Copies of all entries in the Lemke Prize will be deposited with the Special Collections Department at the University of Arkansas Libraries. Entries may be mailed to Lemke Prize, Washington County Historical Society, 118 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701, or e-mailed to charlie.alison@gmail.com by June 30, 2016.

For additional information on the prizes, please contact Charlie Alison at the above mailing address, at 575-6731 or at charlie.alison@gmail.com.

Washington County on the Eve of the Battle of Fayetteville

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tim Nutt, a former member of the board of directors of the Washington County Historical Society presented the following lecture during the 2015 commemoration of the Battle of Fayetteville.

By Tim Nutt

One hundred fifty two years ago today, the uneasy silence that filled the morning air in Fayetteville was broken when "the quiet hamlet was awakened by the roar of cannons, the rattle of musketry, and the shouts of conflicting armies."

"As the sun rose and illuminated the war-ravaged countryside, hordes of a bitter and unprincipled foe poured their deadly fire onto the city." Descriptions of Civil War battles such as these were not uncommon, as both the Federals and Confederates could be unmerciful when they met on the battlefield. Today, I am going to speak on Washington County before the Civil War and talk to you a little about the factors that went into "Laying the Foundation for War: Washington County, Arkansas Before the Battle of Fayetteville on April 18, 1863."

Though Civil War engagements were fought in all sections of Arkansas, the northwest corner of the state certainly experienced their share of turmoil. Fayetteville, itself, was attacked or occupied by both sides on a number of occasions. The city had been overrun by retreating forces from both the battles of Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove in 1862. The Battle of Fayetteville on April 18th, 1863, was just one of the many attempts by the

Confederates to control the city and wrest it from Union control.

It is somewhat ironic that many of the bloodiest battles fought in Arkansas were fought in the strongly Unionist northwest corner of the state. Washington County, and its county seat of Fayetteville in particular, embodied the Unionist feeling. The famed David Walker, a lawyer and former Whig leader, like many in Fayetteville and Northwest Arkansas, was initially opposed to secession. He was elected as president of the Secession Convention, held in Little Rock in 1861, but after the firing on Fort Sumter in South Carolina, he supported the secession. Even though he voted to secede, it was more in response to President Lincoln's call for troops rather than his support of secession. Those opposed to secession left the area, or hid their Union loyalty for fear of reprisals. Judge Jonas Tebbetts, a New Hampshire native, was jailed after the outbreak of the Civil War for his Unionist sympathies. Tebbetts' house would be used throughout the war. Later it was referred to as Headquarters House because of its occupation by both sides.

At the start of the Civil War, northwest Arkansas was home to only a small number of slaves. Slavery was not compatible with the mountainous and hilly northwestern counties of the state. The terrain of the Ozark Plateau meant that crops such as wheat and corn were grown more extensively rather than cotton, which was grown south of the Arkansas River. Eastern and southern Arkansas, in contrast, with its large plantations and vast stretches of deep alluvial soil was home to thousands of slaves. Of the over 111, 000 enslaved persons in Arkansas in 1860, Chicot County and Phillips County in southeastern Arkansas Delta, claimed 7,512 and 8,941, respectively. Washington County, in contrast, counted 1,493.

Fayetteville was the economic and educational epicenter in northwest center. Often known as the Athens of the Ozarks because of the high concentration of educational institutions, including Sophia Sawyer's Fayetteville Female Seminary and Arkansas College. In the years leading up to the Civil War, Fayetteville's business community prospered. This prosperity made

military occupation of the city a priority for both sides, and Fayetteville suffered horribly during the war.

It is true that Fayetteville had certain advantages that made occupation appealing to both the Federals and Confederates. As the war dragged on, some of these antebellum advantages that the city held diminished, including agriculture and industry. As armies moved deeper into opposing territory, supply lines became more and more vulnerable. Locally grown food crops became increasingly valuable commodities. Soldiers could not eat cotton, so the wheat and corn grown in the hill country became even more valuable, especially when coupled with working mills in the area, which took advantage of the natural environment. In the 1850s, the area led the state in mills and manufacturing. The counties with large populations of slaves invested their capital in more land and slaves; thus, the eastern and southern counties fell behind the others in industrial development. However, the abundance of mills also meant that the area was especially vulnerable. The art of war says that one way to cripple an opponent is to cut off their supplies. The best way to hurt the enemy was to not only cut off ammunition, but also food. To disrupt the food supply, all one needed to do was destroy the mills, and that is what happened. When the Union Army moved into northwestern Arkansas in 1862, one of the mills they occupied was War Eagle, using it to grind grain for food. The Confederates took control of it, after the mill was abandoned by retreating Union forces. The mill was later burned to keep it from falling into Union hands, thus plunging the area into a food crisis. This scenario was repeated over and over throughout Washington and Benton counties.

The war, though, disrupted normal daily activities, in fact, they were nearly impossible to perform. Planting crops was neglected and fields remained empty. Compounding the situation was the destruction of buildings and industry by retreating forces. Fayetteville was burned at least twice before the attack on the city in April 1863. The Confederates retreating from Pea Ridge in March 1862 and, what was left of the city was virtu-

ally destroyed after the Battle of Prairie Grove. Miraculously, the Tebbetts House survived. As Fayetteville's agricultural and industrial sectors were being destroyed by the war, other advantages become more obvious.

Fayetteville's transportation system and location increased the city's strategic significance as the war progressed. Fayetteville's interest in the construction of roads and trails prior to the Civil War, would allow easy access to supplies and movement of troops for the side that controlled them. The biggest incentive, though, to both sides for capturing the city was its strategic location. Fayetteville was the perfect vantage point for monitoring and harassing the enemy. It was located approximately midway between Springfield, Missouri and Fort Smith, Arkansas. Controlling Fayetteville meant that an army could easily send out raiding parties while monitoring opposing guerrillas.

As the new year of 1863 began, General W.L. "Old Tige" Cabell reported to General Edmund Kirby Smith. He was immediately given command of northwest Arkansas and sent to Fort Smith. Cabell's "Arkansas Brigade" would eventually be comprised of the remnants of General Thomas C. Hindman's regiment, "neighborhood guerilla bands," conscripted Arkansans, local Confederate sympathizers, and deserters. This rag-tag band—the first Arkansas Infantry—would eventually lead the battle on Fayetteville. General Cabell, in assuming command of the new brigade continued an illustrious military career. He graduated from West Point in 1850, was among the first to resign his position in the Federal Army in 1861 when Virginia seceded. In January 1862, Cabell was reassigned to General Earl Van Dorn's staff in the Trans-Mississippi District. He served with distinction and honor, supervising the logistics of ferrying Van Dorn's entire command across the Mississippi River. Cabell was becoming familiar with the geography of the state during this time. He even married a woman from Arkansas....Harriet Rector, daughter of Elias Rector and sister of Henry Massie Rector....the Confederate Governor of Arkansas. Cabell was determined to rid northwest Arkansas of "the presence of an insolent and unscrupulous invader—the

Union Army. Fayetteville, though, was at the time controlled by Union forces under the leadership of Colonel Marcus LaRue Harrison, which had entered the town after an embarrassing showing at Prairie Grove in December 1862. The Union force was estimated to be nearly 2,000 troops. Harrison, himself, had a long and distinguished career. He had been enlisted in the 36th Illinois Volunteers as a military engineer and he superintended the construction of defenses at Springfield, Missouri in that capacity.

In March 1863, both Cabell and Harrison began sending out scouting and raiding parties. The Confederates could only harass Harrison's sentries, while the Union's soldiers succeeded in wrecking Confederate steamboats on the Arkansas river, demolishing bridges, raiding villages, and pillaging stores. These acts only enflamed Cabell even more and made him even more determined to capture Fayetteville and rescue its war weary citizens. In his report following the Battle of Fayetteville, Cabell stated:

> Knowing that our good citizens had burdens imposed on them by the Federal troops too grievous to be borne much longer....I was determined that I would strike there the very first time I saw least hope, which I succeeded in taking the place or not.

If Cabell could succeed in capturing Fayetteville, it would relieve, in his mind, the people and vicinity from the pressures of occupation. It would also remove the danger of an attack on Little Rock or Fort Smith by the Federals. In early April 1863, Cabell and his troops moved to Roseville, Franklin County. Roseville is located on the southside of the Arkansas River in what is now Logan County. Cabell and Confederate soldiers would remain at Roseville for a month and then advance east to Ozark and wait for orders. April was considered an opportune time to attack Fayetteville because of a suspected reduction of troops in the city. This reduction would be due to a suspected drive through Indian Territory. Cabell hoped that with a surprise attack his could drive the reduced Federal force from Fayetteville.

Harrison, though, had received advance reports of the imminent attack and had been strengthening the city's defenses. He waited for the Confederates to arrive. When the Confederates did move, though, Harrison missed it. The Confederate general left Ozark on April 16th, leading his 900 men up the Mulberrry and Frog Bayou road on the march to Fayetteville. Harrison failed to detect Cabell's movement, even though the Union commander had sent out a scouting party, who reported to Harrison that there were no apparent preparations of the enemy to move in this direction." All of the approaches to the city had not been scouted, though, and Cabell's and his Confederates' attack would be a surprise to Harrison and his Federal Army two days later.

The Confederates failed in their attempt of driving out the Union forces. But, Harrison and his men abandoned Fayetteville. Today, we commemorate this battle and the fortitude and perseverance of Fayetteville.

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❑ $1,000 Statesman
❑ $5,000 Empire Builder

Washington County Historical Society is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. Gifts above membership of $25 are tax deductible.

Marriages of African American Residents of Washington County From 1868-1876

EDITOR'S NOTE: During the late 1860s and early 1870s, the Washington County Clerk recorded the marriages of African American couples in a separate book from other marriages. Following are the marriages recorded from 1868 to 1876, after which all marriages were recorded together. The original documents are held by the Washington County Archives.

Feb. 9, 1868
Groom: Mark M. Crawford, 23
Bride: Lotty George, 16
Officiant: W.L. Molloy, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Feb. 11, 1868
Groom: W.H. Crofford, 33
Bride: Nancy C. North, 21
Officiant: W.L. Molloy, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Feb. 15, 1868
Groom: William Kelly, 41
Bride: Cintha A. Kelly, 21
Officiant: W.L. Molloy, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

June 8, 1868
Groom: Mark Lewis, 25
Bride: Margaret Lewis, about 25
Officiant: B.J.H. Gains, justice of the peace

Oct. 1, 1868
Groom: Coleman Caldwell, 32
Bride: Lear Maguire, 17
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

Oct. 17, 1868
Groom: Samuel Brown, 32
Bride: Maria Wood, 44
Officiant: W.L. Molloy, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Oct. 1, 1868
Groom: Samuel Young, 22
Bride: Martha Reed, 23
Officiant: John Mayo, minister of the Baptist Church

Jan. 12, 1869
Groom: Joshua Gaines, 28
Bride: Margaret Buck, 23
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

June 18, 1869
Groom: Robert Berry, 30
Bride: Lucy Evans, 16
Officiant: H.S. Martin, justice of the peace

July 3, 1869
Groom: Bachus Adams, 19
Bride: Sarah Moore, 17
Officiant: Isaac Brown, minister of the Methodist Church

July 3, 1869
Groom: Henry Bryant, 21
Bride: Manervia Saintpatrick, 16
Officiant: Isaac Brown, minister of the Methodist Church

July 3, 1869
Groom: Robert Tollett, 21
Bride: Elizabeth Bullard, 39
Officiant: Isaac Brown, minister of the Methodist Church

Oct. 22, 1869
Groom: George Sparks, 28
Bride: Mary Davis, 18
Officiant: Isaac Brown, minister of the Methodist Church

Nov. 5, 1869
Groom: Ransom Wilson, 21
Bride: Emily Tuttle, 17
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

Sept. 4, 1869
Groom: George Caldwell, 23
Bride: Isabel, 28
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

Sept. 28, 1869
Groom: Sam Adams, 40
Bride: Martha Coffee, 40
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

Dec. 5, 1869
Groom: Reuben Loreing, 27
Bride: Mariah McKill, 22
Officiant: Isaac Brown, minister of the Methodist Church

Jan. 4, 1870
Groom: Larson Taylor, 22
Bride: Rose Lee Taylor, 18
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

Oct. 1, 1869
Groom: Miles Gray, 24
Bride: Ann Jones, 18
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

Dec. 3, 1869
Groom: James Sutton, 20
Bride: Rose Ann Groom, 17
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

Dec. 12, 1869
Groom: Sam Morrow, 31
Bride: Lucy Morrow, 21
Officiant: George Morrow, minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Feb. 7, 1870
Groom: David Smith, 21
Bride: Malinda Walker, 20
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

Jan. 8, 1870
Groom: Miller Morgan, 47
Bride: Nancy Morrow, 27
Officiant: Isaac Brown, minister of the Methodist Church

Jan. 8, 1870
Groom: Robert Kidd, 23
Bride: Ann Shofner, 21
Officiant: Isaac Brown, minister of the Methodist Church

June 6, 1870
Groom: Henry Moon, 26
Bride: Catharine Saddler, 24
Officiant: William H. Crawford, minister of the Methodist Church

July 17, 1870
Groom: Charles Smith, 34
Bride: Ellen McGarrah, 20
Officiant: James L. Carlile, justice of the peace

Aug. 6, 1870
Groom: Jasper McGarrah, 18
Bride: Lucy Reed, 18
Officiant: James L. Carlile, justice of the peace

Aug. 23, 1870
Groom: Clinton Scales, 32
Bride: Eliza McClellan, 48

Married in 1870
Filed Feb. 8, 1871
Groom: Champ Taylor, 45
Bride: Amy Crawford, 40
Officiant: John Mays, minister of the Baptist Church

March 19, 1871
Groom: Frank Simpson, 65
Bride: Louise Fitzgerald, 58
Officiant: A.Y Smith

June 14, 1871
Groom: Simon Maguire, 24
Bride: Alice Johnson, 16
Officiant: E.S. Cox, justice of the peace

July 2, 1871
Groom: Charles McIlroy, 19
Bride: Nancy B. Crawford, 20
Officiant: W.H. Crawford, minister of the Methodist Church

Dec. 23, 1871
Groom: William Hedrick, 18
Bride: Matt Foster, 21
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

Dec. 24, 1871
Groom: David Davis, 22
Bride: Caroline Walker, 17
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

March 21, 1872
Groom: Jackson Brannon, 42
Bride: Lear Williams, 23
Officiant: G.W. Taylor, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Jan. 11, 1872
Groom: Robert Boone, 21
Bride: Teresa Coffee, 22
Officiant: Henry Crawford, minister of the Methodist Episcopalian Church

March 28, 1872
Groom: M.M. Edwards, 52
Bride: Patsy Samuel, 47
Officiant: J.L. Carlile, justice of the peace

June 20, 1872
Groom: Jena Johnson, 43
Bride: Fanny Wallace, 25
Officiant: William Todd, justice of the peace

Sept. 11, 1872
Groom: Anderson Tuttle, 29
Bride: Anna Polston, 25
Officiant: H. Crawford, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

July 25, 1872
Groom: Richard Morrow, 26
Bride: Philis Howard, 25
Officiant: W.H. Crawford, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Aug. 15, 1873
Groom: Jackson McC?, 20
Bride: Catherine Sutton, 19
Officiant: W.H. Crawford, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Sept. 15, 1873
Groom: Benjamin McCulloch, 18
Bride: Sarah Gunter, 18
Officiant: G.W. Taylor, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Sept. 27, 1873
Groom: James Roper, lawful age
Bride: Charity Dunlap, lawful age
Officiant: G.W. Taylor, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

July 25, 1873
Groom: Jack Funkhouser, 25
Bride: Manda Elms, 18
Officiant: G.W. Taylor, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

May 22, 1875
Groom: Albert Flowers, 21
Bride: Mary Alice Shannon, 18
Officiant: H.M. Welch

July 15, 1875
Groom: Jefferson Pell, 24
Bride: Amy Hewitt, 25
Officiant: John Mayes, minister of the Baptist Church

Aug. 5, 1875
Groom: Harvey Dow, 21
Bride: Sylla McLin, 16
Officiant: John Mayes, minister of the Baptist Church

Oct. 28, 1875
Groom: Hiram Jackson, 28
Bride: Delphine Hawkins, 21
Officiant: Elzy Roberts, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Nov. 17, 1875
Groom: John Berry, 22
Bride: Ula Taylor, 18
Officiant: E. Roberts, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Sept. 18, 1875
Groom: William Bly, 22
Bride: Mary Morton, 25
Officiant: John Mayes, minister of the Baptist Church

Oct. 11, 1875
Groom: Alexander Campbell, 49
Bride: Rosa Arnett, 20
Officiant: J.C. Newman, justice of the peace

Jan. 28, 1876
Groom: Levi Mathews, 22
Bride: Adda Davis, 19
Officiant: Elzy Roberts, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Nomination of Prairie Grove Telephone Booth to the Register of Historic Places

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ralph Wilcox and Callie Williams of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program researched the Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth to nominate it for consideration to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Their research and nomination were successful, and the National Park Service added the phone booth to the National Register on Nov. 9, 2015.

Summary Paragraph

The Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth is a square telephone booth located on the south side of U.S. 62 on the east side of Prairie Grove. The booth was built c.1960 and features aluminum and glass construction. The booth rests on a concrete pad and is topped by a flat aluminum roof. The bi-fold door is located on the booth's north side, adjacent to U.S. 62.

Narrative Description

The Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth is a square telephone booth located at the southwest corner of U.S. 62 and Parker Street on the east side of Prairie Grove. The booth was built c.1960 and features aluminum ("satin anodized aluminum," according to the specifications) and glass construction. The booth rests on a concrete pad and is topped by a flat aluminum roof. The bi-fold door is located on the booth's north side, adjacent to U.S. 62.

According to Section 2.02 of the 1971 specifications for the Airlight Telephone Booth, "The overall dimensions of the booth are:

PHOTO BY SUSAN PARKS-SPENCER

Bill Bowden, a reporter for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, takes a call from the restored phone booth in Prairie Grove.

- Height – 86-1/8 inches
- Width – 35-7/16 inches at roof, 33-1/2 inches at base
- Depth – 35-7/16 inches at roof, 33-1/2 inches at base."[1]

The location of the booth, which is adjacent to U.S. 62 and just to the northeast of the Colonial Motel, was a perfect location to serve residents, travelers, and motel guests. It is also across the street from Prairie Grove Battlefield Park (NR-listed September 4, 1970).

The booth's phone number is (479) 846-9314.

Front/North Façade

The north façade contains the booth's bi-fold door, which is located slightly off-center to the east. According to Section 2.03 of the specifications, "The door consists of two vertical sections, each containing two clear safety glass panels. The door is self-closing and folds along the right wall when opened." The specifications indicate that the glass is tempered glass that is 7/32" thick.[2]

Above the door is a red panel with white letters that reads "TELEPHONE." A small projecting aluminum cornice spans the top of the booth.

Side/East Façade

The east side of the booth consists of four large horizontally-oriented panels, with the top three panels being 7/32"-thick tempered glass. The panels are all off-center slightly to the south. The bottom panel is an opaque red panel. Below the bottom panel is a small rectangular aluminum panel with six louvers that provide ventilation in the booth. Above the top panel is a red panel with white letters that reads "TELEPHONE." A small projecting aluminum cornice spans the top of the booth.

Rear/South Façade

The south side of the booth consists of four large horizontally-oriented panels, with the top three panels being 7/32"-thick tempered glass. The panels are all off-center slightly to the east. The bottom panel is an opaque red panel. Below the bottom

panel is a small rectangular aluminum panel with six louvers that provide ventilation in the booth. Above the top panel is a red panel with white letters that reads "TELEPHONE." A small projecting aluminum cornice spans the top of the booth.

Side/West Façade

The west side of the booth consists of four large horizontally-oriented panels, with the top three panels being 7/32"-thick tempered glass. The panels are all off-center slightly to the north. The bottom panel is an opaque red panel. Below the bottom panel is a small rectangular aluminum panel with six louvers that provide ventilation in the booth. Above the top panel is a red panel with white letters that reads "TELEPHONE." A small projecting aluminum cornice spans the top of the booth.

Interior

The interior of the booth consists of one space with the telephone located in the southwest corner of the booth. An aluminum shelf, that tapers from south to north to provide clearance for the open door, is located on the west wall between the bottom two glass panels. A plastic phone directory holder is suspended from the bottom of the shelf. Light in the booth is provided by a circular florescent tube light located above a translucent cover.

Integrity

The Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth retains excellent integrity from the time of its construction c.1960. Although the booth was struck by an SUV in 2014, the booth was restored and reinstalled by Prairie Grove Telephone Company (PGTelco). Only some of the glass needed to be replaced as part of the restoration. The setting around the telephone booth also reflects the setting at the time of the booth's construction, since U.S. 62, Prairie Grove Battlefield Park, and the Colonial Motel were all in place in 1960.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with

local significance under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth developed in the mid-1950s. When the Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth was introduced c.1954, advertisements touted it as "something new in telephone booths." Its aluminum construction was an improvement over previous booths, and the glass around it, along with the overhead light, made the Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth well-lighted and very comfortable to use.

The Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth is also being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion A for its importance in the communications history of Prairie Grove. By the early 1980s, AT&T oversaw approximately 1.4 million pay phones around the country. In the days before cellular phones, the pay phone and telephone booth were instrumental in allowing telephone communications outside the home or office. Although the introduction of cellular phones has meant the fast and widespread demise of the phone booth, a local outcry called for the reinstallation of the Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth after it was damaged in early 2014, illustrating the importance of the phone booth to the local community.

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

The establishment of Washington County and Arkansas's western border began in 1820 with the creation of Crawford County by the Arkansas territorial legislature. Four years later, Congress passed a bill that moved the western boundary of the Arkansas territory 40 miles to the west, although white settlers were not allowed to establish residence in the new area due to an 1817 treaty. In 1827 the Secretary of War lifted the ban on white settlement in the Cherokee country, and on October 13, 1827, Lovely County was created by the Arkansas territorial legislature. The following year, a treaty moved the territorial boundary 40 miles to the east, to its present location, and on October, 17, 1828, the territorial legislature created Washington County out of Lovely County, which ceased to exist.[3]

The site of Prairie Grove was first settled in 1829 by Reverend Andrew Buchanan, and through his activities a school and church were also soon established. After Buchanan's death in 1857, his land was split up among various benefactors, and in 1871, Buchanan's stepson, Col. James P. Neal, acquired the various parcels and began to live in Buchanan's homestead.[4]

After Neal was able to acquire all of the parcels, he decided to establish a town on the land. Neal was able to secure a post office, and he became the first postmaster. In the next few years, several businesses were established, including a blacksmith shop in 1872, a general store in 1875, and a large flour mill in 1876. In 1877, the town was platted and the sale of the first lots began on March 24, 1877. By the late 1880s, Prairie Grove had a population of around 500 residents.[5] Prairie Grove was incorporated on July 9, 1888.[6]

The commercial importance of Prairie Grove also grew as the town's population grew. By the late 1880s, it was reported that:

> The two most important manufacturing enterprises of the town are the Prairie Grove Mills, now owned and operated by H. C. & G. W. Crowell, and the Prairie Grove Canning and Evaporating Factory, operated by a joint-stock company. ... The factory is supplied with all the latest improved machinery for canning and evaporating fruit. It has a capacity of 10,000 cans per day by the canning process, and 250 bushels per day when evaporating fruit or vegetables.
>
> The mercantile interests of Prairie Grove are represented by the following individuals and firms: General stores, H.C. & G.W. Crowell, B.A. Carl, W.N. Butler & Co., Hardy & Marrs, W.P. Dyer and D.F. McMillan; furniture, H.H. Collier; harness and saddlery, A. Dixon & Co.; druggists, McCormick & Co. and H.C. Crowell; jewelry, musical instruments, etc., Simmons & Henderson; marble works, Leach & Dorman; hardware, Baggett & Sanders; lumber, J. V. Rich.[7]

Communication was also important during the early days of Prairie Grove, the town having had three newspapers by 1890. "In 1885 a weekly newspaper called the *Prairie Grove News* was established by Joseph Garrison, and published for about one year. In April, 1887, H. Milton Butler began the publication of the *Prairie Grove Banner,* which he has since continued. *The Rising Sun* was published for a short time in 1887, but was soon bought out by the *Banner*."[8]

Although the first telephone call, which was between Alexander Graham Bell and his assistant, Thomas Watson, occurred on March 10, 1876, it was a few years before the people of Arkansas could make phone calls. Telephone service first reached Arkansas when the Western Union Telegraph Company installed it in Little Rock in November 1879. It is believed that Little Rock's telephone exchange is the third oldest exchange in the country. After it was used in Little Rock, it was not long until telephone service was installed in other parts of the state, including Prairie Grove.[9]

Telephone service came to Prairie Grove in 1888 when local physician Ephraim Graham McCormick strung a telephone wire across the city's main street to his brother's pharmacy across the street. Since many of the town's neighbors also wanted to have telephone service, the brothers incorporated the company in October 1906. Initially, the Prairie Grove Telephone Company had a switchboard and a one-page directory.[10]

After establishing the phone service in Prairie Grove, McCormick later strung the line from Prairie Grove to Fayetteville. James C. Parks, McCormick's son-in-law, started working on the switchboard and later became president of the company. He operated the company until his death in 1958. Throughout the twentieth century, the company grew and survived the World Wars and the Depression, due in part by never disconnecting a phone for not paying the bill. (Payments were routinely accepted "in the form of eggs, produce and 'the occasional cow.'") The company remains in the Parks family and is currently headed by David Parks, who came on board with the company in 1980.

Today, the Prairie Grove Telephone Company has 33 employees, 6,900 landlines, and 5,800 bills that are sent out every month. The old Prairie Grove telephone prefix was Vinewood or VI.[11]

Initially, telephone service was only limited to those people who subscribed to telephone service and leased the company's equipment. However, if a non-subscriber had an emergency and needed to summon the police or fire department, they had no way to do it. As a result, it became apparent early on that telephone usage had to be open to everyone. The solution was to have a public pay station, and the first one opened on June 1, 1880, in the New Haven office of the Connecticut Telephone Company. The cost per call was ten cents, which was paid to a uniformed attendant. Not long afterwards, William Gray, invented a "coin-controlled apparatus for telephones" that required inserting a coin into a slot. Gray's invention was given patent number 408,709, and the first one was installed in the Hartford Bank in 1889.[12]

As pay stations for phones became more prevalent, it was only a matter of time before a booth developed to allow the conversation to have some privacy. The first fully-enclosed telephone booth, which was interestingly on wheels, was patented in 1883. By the early 1890s, however, phone booths had become quite elaborate affairs. An 1891 brochure indicated that "basic models – with double walls and domed roofs – were available in oak or cherry and cost between $112 and $225. Extra features included a Wilton rug for $3.50 or $6.50, revolving stools with russet leather tops for $2.00, and yellow silk window draperies for $3.00 a pair."[13]

By 1912, Western Electric's catalog featured simplified phone booth models that could be lined up in a row. The booths featured double-hinged folding doors, fans, lights and stools that were attached to the booth's hardwood walls. Each booth also featured shelves with slots below them to hold the phone book. Later models, which were made of steel were specifically intended for outdoor use.[14]

As the twentieth century dawned, the use of the telephone

– and the telephone booth – grew tremendously. As Ariana Kelly writes in her article, "Last Call for Phone Booths," "By 1904 there were over 3 million phones and 81,000 phone booths across America. By 1946, only half of American homes contained phones; consequently, pay phones were nexus points for communities. For traveling salesmen and other insolvent entrepreneurs, telephone booths in the lobbies of public buildings were the only affordable places to do business."[15]

Outdoor telephone booths began to appear in the 1940s during World War II at military bases, and they allowed military personnel to make calls to families back home. However, it was during the 1950s that they became prevalent on the American landscape. Interestingly, "Pay telephones eventually became so deeply ingrained in American life that even the government catered to them: When the U.S. Treasury changed the composition of coins, they checked with the telephone company to make sure the coins were compatible with pay phones."[16]

Although telephone booths were intended to attract people who needed to make phone calls, they attracted two other groups for very different reasons. College students loved phone booths for the crazy competition of seeing how many people they could fit in one. The North American record, which was set at St. Mary's College in Morega, California, was 22. Phone booths installed in National Parks also did a good job of attracting moose. Interestingly, as Michael McLeod writes in his article "Old-Fashioned Telephone Booths are Quickly Becoming Obsolete," "Several of the animals charged into the booths and destroyed them, having mistaken their reflections in the glass for a rival horning in on their area code."[17]

When the Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth was introduced in the mid-1950s, the Bell Telephone System took out advertisements touting the booth's new modern design and features. For example, a 1954 advertisement proclaimed that "There's Something New in Telephone Booths." The advertisement read:

Any time you see one of these new Airlight Outdoor

Telephone Booths, you're likely to want to go right in and make a call.

For they are mighty attractive and comfortable. They are well-lighted, day and night. Tip-up directories are in easy reach. There's an ample shelf for packages and handbags.

The Airlight Outdoor Booths are never closed. They are available for service 24 hours a day, every day in the year.

It's just another step in the never-ending job of making the telephone more convenient and more useful to more and more people.

By bringing the telephone closer to you, we bring you closer to everybody. And thus make the service just that much more valuable.[18]

Another advertisement from 1959 also stressed the convenience of the new phone booths in a variety of situations. The advertisement, titled "Like a lighthouse on the highway," showed a lit-up phone booth on the shoulder of a dark highway, and read:

A thoughtful husband, hurrying home, phones to reassure his wife.

A young family calls ahead to make reservations for the night.

A vacationing couple enjoys a telephone visit with old friends off their route.

A sputtering car coasts to a stop and two grateful women phone for road service.

Lighted outdoor telephone booths are multiplying along America's highways. They and half a million other public telephones – in stores, stations, hotels, motels, airports and other places – make telephone service more useful and convenient day or night.

Public telephones get things done wherever you are. They save you time and trouble. Use them like

> your own phone – to visit a friend, check an address, thank a hostess – to make reports, appointments, sales. There's always a public phone handy to help you.[19]

The use of the Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth soon spread across the country, including Arkansas. The Prairie Grove Telephone Company installed one on the east side of Prairie Grove on U.S. 62 near the Colonial Motel c.1960. The booth's location on the main highway near a motel and across the street from the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park made perfect sense. People passing through Prairie Grove, staying at the motel, or visiting the park, could enjoy the booth's convenience.

Although the exact date of the installation of the Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth is not known, the Prairie Grove Telephone Company believes that it was installed c.1960. An article in the Prairie Grove Enterprise on April 17, 1958, talked about the growth of Prairie Grove's phone system and the upgrades that the company was undertaking, and it's possible that the phone booth was installed as part of the improvements. The article stated:

> Thirty-seven new telephones were installed last month by the Prairie Grove Telephone Company – breaking a previous record of thirty-two installations for one month. Also a new record was established for the three month period of January, February and March when 97 new telephones were installed. These figures seem especially significant in view of the fact that January, February and March are normally the slowest months of the year. An indication that this part of the country is experiencing considerable growth at the present time.
>
> The company also announced that the new long distance equipment has been installed in the Prairie Grove, Lincoln, Farmington, Morrow and Dutch Mills exchanges and a great deal more new equipment

> will be installed within the next few months. This equipment has and will mean considerable improvement in all phases of telephone service.[20]

The period of 1958 was also a period of a tremendous amount of development at the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park, which may have also contributed to the installation of the booth to serve tourists coming to visit the park.

By the 1980s, pay phones were still an important part of the telephone network and important in communications. Sonny Kleinfield's book *The Biggest Company on Earth: A Profile of AT&T* noted:

> Besides supplying home and business phone service, the Bell System superintends some 1.4 million pay phones. They are found in stores, on street corners, in subways, but also on Metroliner trains, stashed inside the Statue of Liberty, and rocking on some Coast Guard boats. Nothing is out of the question. A number of coin phones have been installed in forests to oblige talkative hunters. The decision on when to collect the coins from the phones (usually when about $72 piles up inside) is made by computer. In most cases it costs a dime to make a local call, though until recently it was a nickel in Louisiana and it's a quarter in Florida. Despite the relatively modest amount of money to be found in pay phones, they have long been a popular mark for criminals. Since it can take an embarrassingly long time to jimmy open and empty out a pay phone, coin robbers often take the whole phone with them, if they can. Ecologists once cleared out a Detroit municipal pond and discovered 168 coin phones buried in the debris. Some pay phone receivers rest on their hooks for months. At the other extreme, the phone near the ticket counter in the bowels of the Greyhound Bus Terminal on Chicago's Randolph Street is snatched up an

> average of 270 times a day. It's the busiest pay phone in the nation. Have to call the doctor? Go anywhere else.[21]

The fact that some pay phones were not being used became more and more prevalent starting in the 1970s as the use of cellular phones increased. The time also marked when the phone booth all but disappeared. In 1993, there were 13 million cellular phones in the United States, and in just ten years it had skyrocketed to 143 million. During just about the same period, the number of pay phones declined from 2.6 million in 1996 to less than two million in 2003. As Michael McLeod writes:

> Once every pay phone had its own little booth, and every little booth was a stage for solitary dramas. Telephone booths were the original chat rooms, back in a time when real life was all that there was.
>
> Underworld characters slinked into the booths to smoke Lucky Strikes and rat on one another. Reporters in dapper hats phoned in scoops from them. Lovers held their receivers close to murmur across the wires.
>
> Phone booths held the crowd at bay, providing a sliver of privacy for one thin dime. It was the greatest time-share bargain in history.
>
> Naturally, it didn't last.[22]

The dramatic rise in cellular phone use and the dramatic decline in the use of pay phones almost took out the Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth in 2014. On June 7, 2014, the booth was damaged after being struck by an SUV whose owner had fallen asleep at the wheel. Due to the fact that the money raised by the booth – about $2.00 every six months – does not cover the booth's expenses, which includes the expense of maintaining the phone line and $5.00 a month for the electricity to light the booth's light, the Prairie Grove Telephone Company (PGTelco) considered disconnecting the phone booth. However,

PHOTO BY SUSAN PARKS-SPENCER

After an SUV hit the telephone booth, the Prairie Grove Telephone Co. almost scrapped the phone booth. Local response on Facebook, however, led the company to repair and restore the booth, which in turn led to its successful nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

because of the local response on Facebook, the company instead took the booth to their warehouse and began the process of repairing and restoring the booth. Patrick Smith, who had used the phone booth on many occasions as a teenager to call home after attending a move at the 112 Drive In Theater in Fayetteville, did most of the work on the booth. After several weeks of work, the Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth was reinstalled outside of the Colonial Motel where locals and passersby can stop and take pictures or, if they choose, once again even make a phone call.[23]

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

The Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth represented a new direction in the design of telephone booths. Instead

of wooden booths that were found inside hotels, drug stores, or other businesses in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth was developed specifically for outdoor use. Its aluminum and glass construction was durable enough to stand up to the elements and the amount of glass along with the louvers on the sides allowed its namesake elements – air and light – to flood the booth. Bell Telephone touted the new Airlight booth as being "mighty attractive and comfortable," and features such as being "well-lighted, day and night," having "tip-up directories...in easy reach," and having "an ample shelf for packages and handbags" made it live up to Bell Telephone's claim.[24] The Prairie Grove Airlight Outdoor Telephone Booth represents an excellent example of this distinctive 1950s phone booth type, and although it was once common around the country, it is one of two Airlight Telephone Booths currently known to remain in Arkansas.

Telephone booths were once a common feature in America's towns and cities. The 1958 Telephone Almanac estimated that there were "some half a million" indoor and outdoor telephone booths in use around the country.[25] The fact that telephone booths like the Airlight booth were multiplying along America's highways made "telephone service more useful and convenient day or night."[26] The importance of the Airlight telephone booth in communications was claimed by Bell Telephone in their advertisements in that "they save you time and trouble" and "by bringing the telephone closer to you, we bring you closer to everybody. And thus make the service just that much more valuable." The value and importance of telephone booths, especially in the days prior to the proliferation of cellular phones, is indisputable.

Notes

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Alleged Cattle Thief Arrested

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story ran on front page of the July 22, 1915, issue of the Fayetteville Daily Democrat.

– – –

Sheriff Mack Morton is expected to return Thursday afternoon from Prairie Grove with Chas. Hill, alias Green Hall, aged about 25, of Fayetteville, in custody. Hill was arrested in Prairie Grove Thursday by Albert Dearing, the city marshall there, on information from the Sheriff's office that he was wanted here for attempting to sell a steer in which his title was thought to be sady, to the Fuller Meat Market of this city. All that remained to be done to close the transaction was for Hill to receive his check, which was withheld on the suspicion that the steer was stolen. He had been given an order Wednesday morning on the Fuller Meat Market for $23 in payment for the animal, but the check was withheld for the reason that Don Fuller, who purchased the steer did not give a check in payment as was customary but gave an order on the firm, writing at the bottom of the order "I don't know the man," and signing his name.

In the meantime, as a result of a telephone message from Dr. Swift, at Elkins, that he had seen a man driving a cow late Tuesday night in the road near Richland, officials at the Sheriff's office began notifying the different meat markets of the city to be on the lookout if a cow were offered for sale to them. Mr. Fuller was not aware of this when the man presented the order for paymnet [sic] to him but he states that the man did not return for the check. The person who offered the animal for sale later took it from the slaughter pen and tied it to a tree near Fayette Junction, two miles southwest of the city, where it was found Wednesday morning by Deputy Sheriff S.H. Guinn and Chief of Police W.A. Gregg. Deputy Guinn, Chief Gregg and Constable U.L. Smelser searched for the party until 10:30 o'clock Wednesday night and later learned that they were at one time within ten minutes walk from him. The steer is being kept at the city pound.

Officials state that Chas. Hill only a few months ago finished a term in the State Pentiary [sic] for cattle stealing.

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A charitable gift annuity is a contract between you and Arkansas Community Foundation. Under the arrangement, you transfer assets to the Foundation in exchange for a commitment from the Foundation to pay you a fixed sum for the remainder of your lifetime. After your death, the remaining principal and income is retained by the Foundation and used to support the programs of the Washington County Historical Society.

Current Rates (subject to change)			
Individuals Ages	Rate	Couples Ages	Rate
65	4.7%	Husband 65, Wife 60	4.0%
70	5.1%	Husband 70, Wife 65	4.4%
75	5.8%	Husband 75, Wife 70	5.8%
80	6.8%	Husband 80, Wife 75	5.3%

Rates are for illustration purposes only. The Arkansas Community Foundation will design a gift annuity to benefit you and the Washington County Historical Society.

Through a charitable gift annuity, you can increase your retirement income, postpone capital gains tax and receive an income tax deduction, all while make plans for a significant legacy gift to your community. Find out how you can support the Washington County Historical Society through a charitable gift annuity.

Contact Katie Tennant, executive director of Fayetteville Area Community Foundation, a local affiliate office of Arkansas Community Foundation. Contact her at fayettevillearea@arcf.org or 479-444-6880.

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